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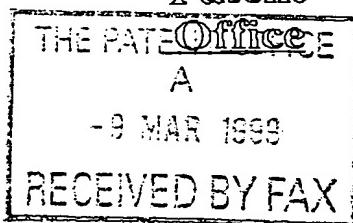
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1. Your reference	PS7668M		
2. Patent application number <i>(The Patent Office will fill in this part)</i>	9905313.4		= 9 MAR 1999
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or each applicant <i>(underline all surnames)</i>	Welland Medical Limited 7 Brunel Centre Newton Road Crawley West Sussex RH10 2TU (147003003)		
Patents ADP number <i>(if you know it)</i>			
If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation	Great Britain		
4. Title of the invention	Ostomy Bags		
5. Name of your agent (if you have one)	Fry Heath & Spence		
"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent <i>(including the postcode)</i>	The Old College 53 High Street Horley Surrey RH6 7BN		
Patents ADP number <i>(if you know it)</i>	05880273001		
6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or each of these earlier applications and <i>(if you know it)</i> the or each application number	Country	Priority application number <i>(if you know it)</i>	Date of filing <i>(day/month/year)</i>
7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application	Number of earlier application	Date of filing <i>(day/month/year)</i>	
8. Is a statement of inventorship and or right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? <i>(Answer 'Yes' if:</i>	Yes		
<i>a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or</i>			
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<i>See note (d)</i>			

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Description	8
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Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)	0
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)	1
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Any other documents (please specify)	0

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature

Date 9 March 1999

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Dr Victoria Barry

01293 776880

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OSTOMY BAGS

This invention relates to ostomy bags and more especially to one-piece and two-piece ostomy bags employing a convex body attachment surface.

Ostomy bags, such as urostomy, ileostomy and colostomy bags, are used to collect bodily waste draining from a stoma opening in the patient's body wall. Ostomy bags can be secured to the patient by means of a belt or strap, and/or adhesive, but more usually they are affixed to the patient by means of an adhesive flange which surrounds the stoma orifice.

For many ostomy bag wearers, the stoma opening is sited in a recess in the body wall. This may be a consequence of patient weight gain after intestinal surgery or the particular surgery performed. In such cases it is preferable to use an ostomy bag appliance wherein the body contacting surface is substantially convex in shape in order that the skin surrounding the opening of the stoma is contacted and adhered to the adhesive surface of the appliance. Such ostomy bag devices have become known as "convexity" appliances.

In the past, "convexity" appliances have created a number of problems. Commonly, manufacture involves the use of injection moulded plastics to form a rigid and often inflexible convex body attachment piece.

Unfortunately, such products are not only expensive to make but have led to a range of patient complaints resulting from the pressure required to fix the device in place. These include *inter alia*, skin damage, such as



ulceration and bruising, and general discomfort. Not only are such devices difficult to attach to the body wall so that the stomal orifice is aligned with the opening in the ostomy bag, but they do not accommodate the full range of body movements, such as reaching and bending, and therefore can lead to a loss of adhesion between the device and the body or further physical discomfort. Furthermore, the rigid edge of the moulding in the region of the orifice can damage the stoma.

It has also been found that such devices are difficult to cut to suit the patient. Therefore, the manufacturer must supply a range of pre-cut devices to suit each patient.

Therefore, it is an object of the present invention to provide a convexity appliance which is more comfortable, is easier to apply to the body wall and is simpler to manufacture.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides a deformable pad for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient consisting essentially of a thin plastics film bonded to an adhesive material; the pad having an opening for receiving stomal waste, the opening being surrounded by a pliable convex formation on a bodyside face of the pad, the convex formation not being reinforced by any material of greater stiffness than the adhesive material or the film.

The term "not being reinforced" as used herein means that there is no reinforcing element which affords greater stiffness to the convex formation. In this respect, the adhesive pad is distinguished from known ostomy bag-securing pads making use of the "convexity" principle in which a stiffening element, for example formed of a stiff injection-moulded plastics material, is used to reinforce the region around the stomal opening and to form the convex shape.

In another aspect, the invention provides a deformable pad for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient consisting essentially of a thin plastics film bonded to an adhesive material; the pad having an opening for receiving stoma waste, the opening being surrounded by a frustoconical ring extending outwardly from a bodyside face of the pad, the ring not being reinforced by any material of greater stiffness than the adhesive material or the film.

By avoiding the use of a separate, stiff reinforcing plastics component, the pad has the advantage that it can be easily manipulated when the patient applies the device to the stoma orifice. Furthermore, there are no stiff and unyielding edges which can cause discomfort, or lead to the dislodgement of the device, as the patient bends and turns.

In one preferred embodiment, the convex formation or frustoconical ring can be formed by deforming a combination of a layer of thin plastics film and adhesive material in a suitably shaped mould. For example the layers can be moulded by thermo-forming in a one or two stage process. In the two stage process the layers are initially cold-formed to form the required shape and then thermally treated to bond the layers together. In this embodiment, a concave cavity or frustoconical depression is formed on the surface of the pad opposite to the bodyside surface.

In an alternative embodiment, the convex formation is not hollow, but rather the deformable pad is thickened in the region of the orifice. In this embodiment, the surface of the pad opposite to the bodyside surface may be substantially flat.

Preferably, the adhesive material comprises a hydrocolloid composition or a hydrogel adhesive. The hydrogel adhesive may be an adhesive water-swellable polymer. Preferably, the hydrogel adhesive is formed of polymeric materials which are cross-linked, either physically or chemically, for example,

cross-linked polyacrylamide gels, polymers containing cross-linked polymer chains derived from styrene, isoprene, cyclopentadiene and dioctyl adipate monomers, or polyhydroxy ethyl methacrylic acids.

The hydrocolloid composition may comprise gel-forming natural and modified polysaccharides in combination with polymers based on styrene, isoprene or isobutylene.

The thin plastics film is preferably less than 0.2mm in thickness. Typically, the film comprises polyethylene. The film may be formed by heat treatment of a layer of woven or non-woven material, e.g. non-woven polyethylene.

The deformable pad may be of any shape suitable for use in a stomal appliance context. For example, the pad may take the form of a circular annulus or an oval shape.

The deformable pad may be of generally uniform thickness. Alternatively, the pad may vary in thickness across its width, for example, it may decrease in thickness in a radially outward direction.

The adhesive material may have incorporated therein a reinforcing fabric such as a woven, knitted, or non-woven fabric. The fabric may be activated carbon cloth. The activated carbon cloth serves the purpose of adsorbing odours penetrating laterally through the flange.

Examples of carbon cloth are carbon cloths such as those supplied by Charcoal Cloth (International) Ltd of Houghton le Spring, Sunderland, UK a particular example being the heavy weave carbon cloth designated FM 5/250.

In one embodiment, the side of the deformable pad opposite to the bodyside surface may be bonded to a backing layer which may be formed

of a water-vapour permeable material, e.g non-woven or spun-bonded material comprising polyethylene. The backing layer may extend radially beyond the adhesive material, and may be provided with an adhesive to enable it in use, to adhere to and form a seal against the skin of a patient radially outwardly of the deformable pad.

The adhesive may extend around the periphery of the backing layer and/or be interposed between the deformable pad and the backing layer to bond the adhesive material thereto.

Preferably, the adhesive is a hypoallergenic adhesive which does not cause undue skin irritation.

The backing layer typically may be secured to an ostomy appliance such as an ostomy bag by, for example, adhesive bonding or welding, e.g. rf welding.

The bodyside surface of the deformable pad may be covered or coverable with a release liner which may be made of a moulded plastics film. The release liner may conform to the shape of the bodyside surface of the pad, that is, the liner may be pre-formed e.g. by vacuum forming. The liner may be made from styrene, polyethylene, or PVC, e.g high density or medium density. Preferably, the liner is coated with a silicone on one or both sides.

In yet another aspect, the invention provides an ostomy bag comprising a deformable pad for removably securing the bag to the skin of a patient about a stoma orifice, the deformable pad being as defined hereinabove.

The ostomy device may be either a one-piece or two-piece ostomy device. The two-piece ostomy device may comprise a two-part coupling



having bodyside and bagside elements, the deformable pad bonded to the bodyside element.

In still a further aspect, the invention provides a method for producing a deformable pad, as hereinbefore defined, for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:-

- (a) providing a layer of thin plastics film, or a precursor thereof, and a layer of adhesive material;
- (b) shaping the layers of material into the required configuration; and,
- (c) bonding the layers together.

The term "film" is used herein to denote a thin layer of material consisting of a coherent layer or fused mesh. The term "a precursor thereof" is used herein to denote a material which can be used to form a film, for example a woven or non-woven material which on heating forms a film.

Preferably, the layers are shaped and bonded together simultaneously, for example, by thermo-forming or vacuum-forming the layers. When bonded together, the film provides a support for the adhesive material.

In one embodiment, the layers are shaped and bonded with a release liner. The release liner thus conforms to the shape of the pad and protects the adhesive surface of the pad. Typically, the release liner is pre-formed.

The invention will now be described by way of example only by reference to the accompanying diagrammatic drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows a partial side elevation of a deformable pad according to the invention;

Figure 2 shows an exploded view of thermo-forming apparatus suitable for carrying out the method of the present invention.

Referring now to Figure 1, a deformable pad 1 according to the invention can comprise an adhesive pad 3, having a convex formation 5, for example, formed of a thin plastics layer such as non-woven polyethylene, bonded to the bagside surface of a layer of hydrocolloid adhesive material such as a polyisobutylene containing modified polysaccharides. The adhesive pad is provided with a generally central aperture 7 through which the stoma of the patient may protrude. Overlying the adhesive pad 3 is a backing layer 9 formed of polyethylene non-woven material.

Extending around the periphery of the backing layer 9 is a layer of adhesive 11, for example formed from an emulsion acrylic adhesive. As can be seen from the Figure, the backing layer 9 is provided with a portion 13 which extends radially beyond the adhesive pad.

The bodyside surface of the adhesive material is temporarily covered and protected by the use of a release liner 15 made of a moulded plastics film (e.g. polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) which can be removed immediately prior to use of the adhesive pad.

The surface of the backing layer which is opposite to the bodyside surface of the pad is typically bonded to an ostomy appliance such as an ostomy bag, for example by means of adhesive or by welding. For the purposes of clarity, the ostomy bag is not illustrated.

In use, the adhesive pad, with or without the ostomy appliance attached, is affixed to the skin of the patient about the stomal opening, the hydrocolloid adhesive serving to efficiently adhere the convex formation and the remainder of the pad to the skin of the patient. Portions of the backing layer 9 form a seal against the skin by virtue of adhesive.

In this example, the deformable pad was produced using a heat and pressure die. Referring now to Figure 2, a layer of thin plastics film, in this

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example, a layer of non-woven polyethylene, is placed adjacent to a layer of hydrocolloid adhesive material. The hydrocolloid adhesive layer is placed on a release liner which is made of pre-formed, silicone-coated, PET. The three layers 17 are positioned on the receiving surface of a shaped, in this case, concave, surface of one half 19 of a moulding die in a Hawkes Press such that the release liner is in contact with the surface of the die. The surfaces of the die are maintained at a temperature of 150°C. The Hawkes Press brings the two halves (19, 21) of the moulding die together such that they exert a pressure of 2 bar on the layers which are thus bonded and shaped together. The heat and the pressure fuse the non-woven polyethylene material to form a shaped film which is bonded to the hydrocolloid adhesive material to give it form.

Typically, the moulding die exerts a pressure from about 1 to 3 bar on the layers which form the pad. Preferably, the tooling is maintained at a temperature of between about 100°C and 200°C. The exact pressure and temperature required depends on the materials chosen to form the deformable pad.

It will be understood that the foregoing is merely exemplary of an embodiment of the invention and that modification may be made without departing from the true scope of the invention as defined in the accompanying claims.

Claims:-

1. A deformable pad for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient consisting essentially of a thin plastics film bonded to an adhesive material; the pad having an opening for receiving stoma waste, the opening being surrounded by a pliable convex formation on a bodyside face of the pad, the convex formation not being reinforced by any material of greater stiffness than the adhesive material or the film.
2. A deformable pad for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient consisting essentially of a thin plastics film bonded to an adhesive material; the pad having an opening for receiving stoma waste, the opening being surrounded by a frustoconical ring extending outwardly from a bodyside face of the pad, the ring not being reinforced by any material of greater stiffness than the adhesive material or the film.
3. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein a concave cavity or frustoconical depression is formed on the surface of the pad opposite to the bodyside surface.
4. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 which is thickened in the region of the opening.
5. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 4 wherein the surface of the pad opposite to the bodyside surface is substantially flat.
6. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the adhesive material comprises a hydrocolloid composition or a hydrogel adhesive.

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7. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 6 wherein the adhesive material comprises a hydrogel adhesive wherein the hydrogel adhesive comprises an adhesive water-swellable polymer.
8. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 7 wherein the hydrogel adhesive is formed of polymeric materials which are cross-linked, either physically or chemically, for example, cross-linked polyacrylamide gels, polymers containing cross-linked polymer chains derived from styrene, isoprene, cyclopentadiene and dioctyl adipate monomers, or polyhydroxy ethyl methacrylic acids.
9. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 6 wherein the adhesive material comprises a hydrocolloid composition wherein the hydrocolloid composition comprises gel-forming natural and modified polysaccharides in combination with polymers based on styrene, isoprene or isobutylene.
10. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the thin plastics film is less than 0.2mm in thickness.
11. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the thin plastics film is a woven or non-woven plastics material such as non-woven polyethylene.
12. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which is of generally uniform thickness.
13. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11 which varies in thickness across its width, for example, the width of the pad decreases in thickness in a radially outward direction.
14. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims

wherein the adhesive material has incorporated therein a fabric such as a woven, knitted, or non-woven fabric.

15. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the side of the deformable pad opposite to the bodyside surface is bonded to a backing layer.
16. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 15 wherein the backing layer is formed of a water-vapour permeable material.
17. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 16 wherein the backing layer is formed of a non-woven or spun-bonded material comprising polyethylene.
18. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 17 wherein the backing layer extends radially beyond the adhesive material.
19. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 18 wherein the backing layer is provided with an adhesive to enable it in use, to adhere to and form a seal against the skin of a patient radially outwardly of the deformable pad.
20. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 19 wherein the adhesive extends around the periphery of the backing layer and/or is interposed between the deformable pad and the backing layer to bond the adhesive material thereto.
21. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 15 to 20 wherein the backing layer is secured to an ostomy appliance such as an ostomy bag.
22. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ostomy bag is

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secured by adhesive bonding or welding, e.g. rf welding.

23. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the bodyside surface of the adhesive material is covered or coverable with a release liner.
24. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 23 wherein the release liner is made of a moulded plastics film, such as styrene, polyethylene, or PVC, e.g high density or medium density.
25. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 23 or claim 24 wherein the liner is coated with a silicone on one or both sides.
26. A deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 23 to 25 wherein the release liner conforms to the shape of the bodyside surface of the adhesive material.
27. A deformable pad as claimed in claim 26 wherein the release liner is pre-formed e.g. by vacuum forming.
28. A deformable pad substantially as defined hereinabove and with reference to the accompanying drawings.
29. An ostomy bag comprising a deformable pad for removably securing the bag to the skin of a patient about a stoma opening, the deformable pad being as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 28.
30. An ostomy bag as claimed in claim 29 which is either a one-piece or two-piece ostomy bag.
31. An ostomy bag as claimed in claim 30 which is a two piece ostomy bag and wherein the two-piece ostomy bag comprises a two-part

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coupling having bodyside and bagside elements, the deformable pad bonded to the bodyside element.

32. An ostomy bag substantially as defined hereinabove in claims 29 to 31 and with reference to the accompanying drawings.
33. A method for producing a deformable pad, as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 28, for removably securing an ostomy bag to the skin of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:-
 - (a) providing a layer of thin plastics film, or a precursor thereof, and a layer of adhesive material;
 - (b) shaping the layers of material into the required configuration; and,
 - (c) bonding the layers together.
34. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in claim 33 wherein the precursor of the plastics film is a woven or non-woven material which forms a film on heating.
35. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in claim 33 or claim 34 wherein the layers are shaped and bonded together simultaneously.
36. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 33 to 35 wherein the layers are shaped and bonded by thermo-forming or vacuum-forming the layers.
37. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in any one of claims 33 to 36 wherein the layers are shaped and bonded with a release liner.
38. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in claim 37 wherein the release liner is pre-formed.

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39. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in any one of claim 33 to 38 wherein the convex formation or frustoconical ring is formed by deforming a combination of a layer of thin plastics film and adhesive material in a suitably shaped mould.
40. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in claim 39 wherein the layers are moulded by thermo-forming in a one or two stage process.
41. A method for producing a deformable pad as claimed in claim 40 wherein the layers are moulded by thermo-forming in a two-stage process wherein the layers are initially cold-formed to form the required shape and then thermally treated to bond the layers together.
42. A method for producing a deformable pad substantially as defined hereinabove in claims 33 to 41 and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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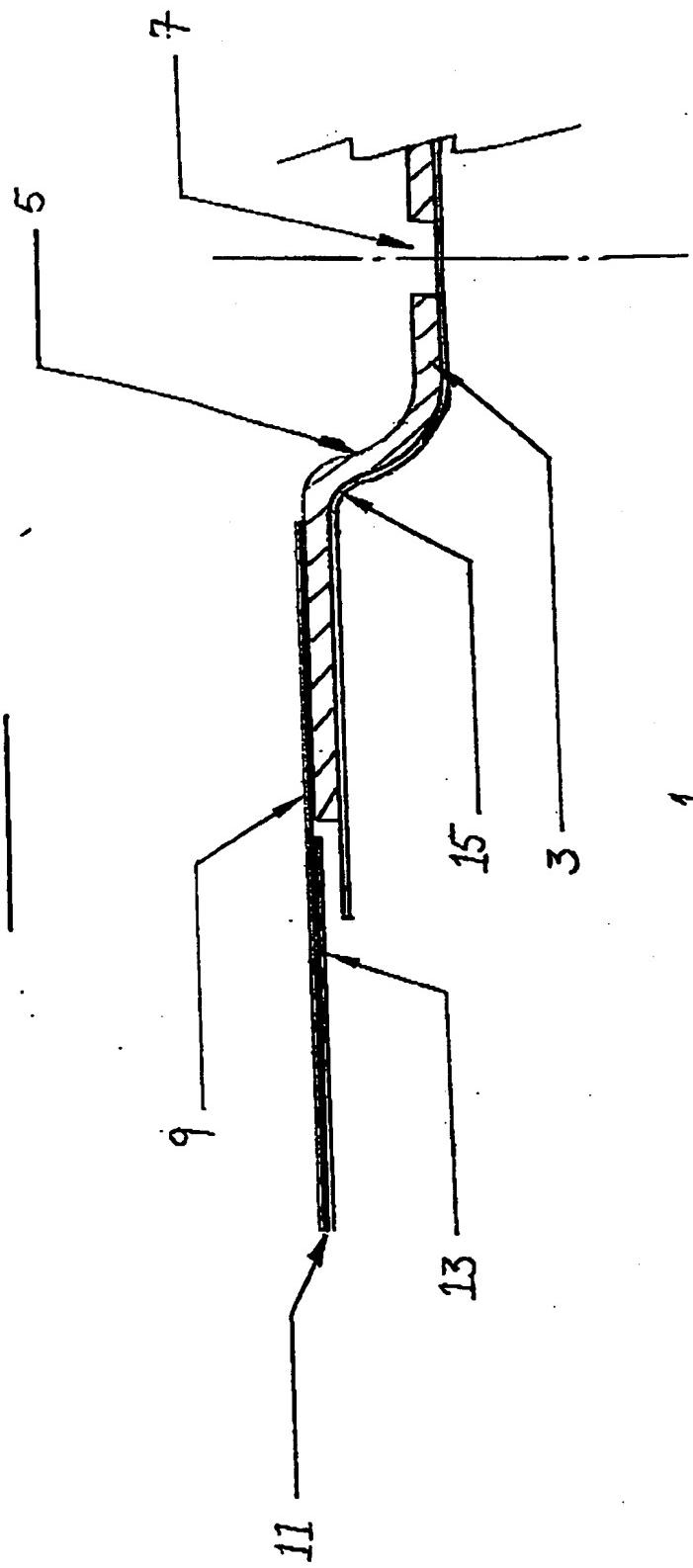
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FIGURE 1



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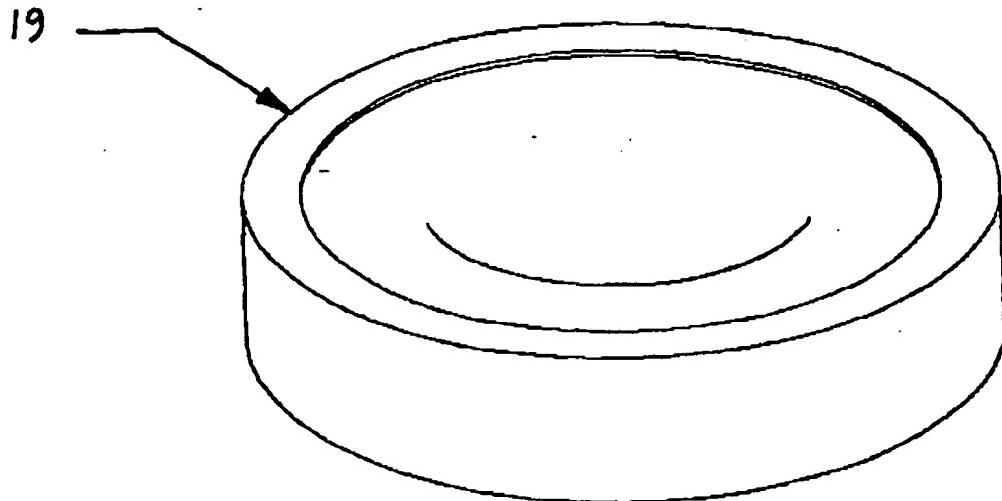
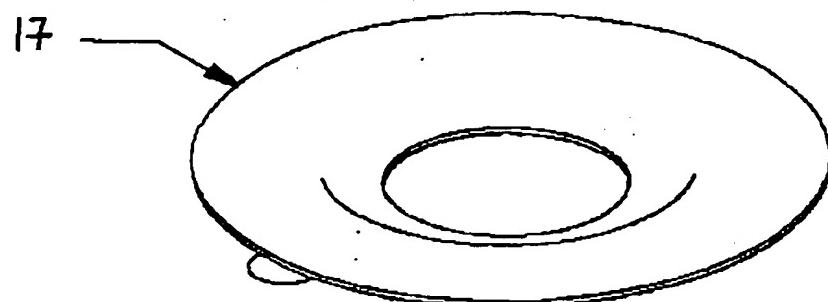
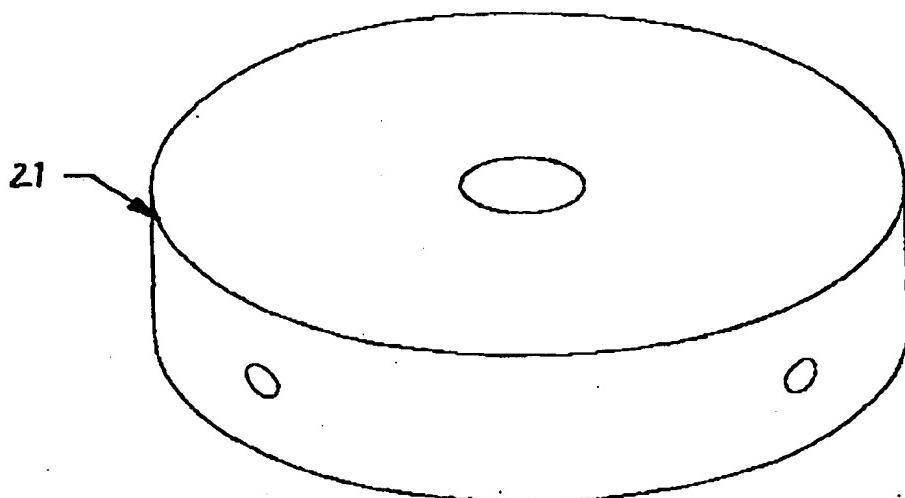
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FIGURE 2



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